

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW RED SQUIRREL FROM NORTH DAKOTA.<sup>1</sup>

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The examination of a large series of North American chickarees has revealed the existence of the following undescribed subspecies:

***Tamiasciurus hudsonicus pallescens***, new subspecies.

NORTH DAKOTA CHICKAREE.

*Type*.—Collected 8 miles east of Upham, McHenry County, North Dakota, January 8, 1936, by C. J. Henry; adult female, skin and skull, No. 261625, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey's collection); original number 135 (27532X.)

*Range*.—North-central North Dakota, specifically the Souris River Valley in McHenry County, North Dakota, and the Turtle Mountains.

*External characters*.—Similar to *T. h. dakotensis*, but smaller; dorsal area and tail a darker shade of red; sides of head and body paler and more grayish (less buffy), especially in winter pelage; nose and face more grayish, lacking the rich buffy wash of *dakotensis*; fore and hind feet in winter pelage grayish rather than cinnamon buff; hind feet in summer darker buff; under parts in winter sometimes slightly vermiculated with fuscous. Compared with *preblei*: Similar in winter pelage, but upper parts and sides averaging paler and less reddish, the red of the back never forming a distinct band; sides of head paler gray; fore and hind feet paler and more buffy (less grayish); under parts mainly without vermiculation. In summer pelage upper parts averaging more tawny (less olivaceous), the fore and hind feet darker buff and the tail darker red above. Compared with *loquax*: Size larger; upper parts and tail in winter much paler, lacking the deep reddish dorsal band of that race; in summer pelage upper parts paler and more ochraceous.

*Cranial characters*.—Skull similar to that of *preblei*, but averaging smaller and relatively narrower across zygomata; much smaller than that of *dakotensis*; larger than that of *loquax*.

<sup>1</sup> This description of a hitherto unrecognized subspecies of red squirrel was found by me in arranging the papers of the late Arthur H. Howell. It was prepared by him in connection with his revision of the red squirrels of North America which was left uncompleted by his untimely death.—Viola S. Schantz.

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*Color.*—*Winter pelage:* Median dorsal area hazel or mikado brown, not sharply defined, shading into color of the sides, which are warm buff, lightly shaded with fuscous; sides of face pale neutral gray; ears fuscous, shaded with hazel; sides of nose pinkish buff; feet pinkish buff, shaded with fuscous; tail above, tawny or mikado brown, bordered with black and edged with warm buff; tail beneath, warm buff, mixed with neutral gray; under parts white. *Summer pelage:* Upper parts warm buff, mixed with fuscous, the head darker; sides of nose warm buff; ears ochraceous tawny, shaded with fuscous; front feet ochraceous tawny; hind feet similar; the toes buckthorn brown; tail above, russet, bordered with black and edged with warm buff; tail beneath, mixed russet and neutral gray; under parts white, faintly washed with pale pinkish buff.

*Measurements.*—Average of 10 adults from Mouse River, North Dakota: Total length, 333.4 (324–360); tail vertebrae, 132.9 (120–143); hind foot, 48.1 (46–49). *Skull:* Average of 10 adult males from same locality: Greatest length, 47.6 (46.9–49); zygomatic breadth, 26.6 (25–27.7); cranial breadth, 20.5 (20–21.3); interorbital breadth, 13.5 (13–14.3); least post-orbital breadth, 14.2 (13–15.1); length of nasals, 14.4 (12.9–15.7); maxillary tooth row, 7.9 (7.6–8.2). Seven females average: Total length, 46.5; zygomatic breadth, 26.6; cranial breadth, 20.1; the other measurements are much as in the males.

*Remarks.*—This race occupies a limited area in the Souris River Valley, North Dakota, extending northward into the Turtle Mountains. It is the palest of all the races of *hudsonicus*, the red on the back much reduced in extent and intensity. In color it most resembles *dakotensis*, but is less suffused with ochraceous.

*Specimens examined.*—Total number, 31, from localities as follows: North Dakota: Bottineau, 2; Max Lake, Turtle Mountains, 2;<sup>2</sup> Mouse River, 10 miles east of Upham, and S. E. of Stillings Dam, 14; Towner, 7; Turtle Mountains, 6.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Coll. Nat. Mus. Canada.

<sup>3</sup> Two in American Mus. Nat. Hist.